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22 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant for Special Projects, ORR

SUBJECT: Report on Geographic Research Area Participation
in Operation Alert 1958

1. Geographic Research Area activities during this exercise were restricted to the participation of the undersigned in discussions on Agency war plans called by [REDACTED] DD/P. It had been intended by the Area to conduct similar discussions with outside customers, collaborators, and suppliers in compliance with [REDACTED] instructions. However, this proved to be impossible to arrange since the organizations involved were either non-participating or were relocated outside of the Washington area. 25X1A9a 25X1A9a

2. The conference on Agency war plans was felt to be of limited value. Most of the material presented and conclusions reached duplicated the results of previous conferences. However, some new technical information relating to nuclear bomb effects was presented. In addition, a number of basic war planning principles were usefully restated. Among these were the following:

a. The support rendered to DD/P field elements by the DD/I will in a wartime situation have to be rendered at the overseas locations of the DD/P.

b. The DD/I has certain obligations (map procurement, FBIS, etc.) which will require it to operate a field activity in wartime irrespective of its mission to support the DD/P.

c. The CIA should continue to press for some coordination of war plans between the IAC agencies.

d. Some preparation for the immediate problem of survival seems to deserve greater attention than it has received so far in relocation thinking.

3. The undersigned made two formal presentations. In one, he commented on the criteria that must underlay plans for effective intelligence support in the field. In the other, he described the nature and capabilities of geographic intelligence, and reported on current plans for geographic, cartographic, map reference, and photo intelligence support overseas in wartime.

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4. Part of the limitations of the conference resulted from the fact that it did not really work out as advertised. Apart from the chairman and his assistant, there were only two participants from the DD/P. There was no contribution of information from the DD/P. The discussion did not relate so much to the pre-set agenda, general as it was, as to the presentation by [REDACTED] of his own planning views and conclusions. It rather appeared that the Colonel desired to use the conference to back concepts he had already arrived at. A report (to whom was unstated) is under preparation by [REDACTED] and 25X1A9a presumably will incorporate some of the comments he requested of the participants. A copy of those submitted by the undersigned is attached. 25X1A9a

5. I would recommend that future DD/I Operation Alert exercises be devoted exclusively to Command Post Exercises which, insofar as possible, include the participation -- arranged for long in advance -- of other agencies. Tests need to be made of the equipment, facilities, and people to be used in emergencies, and the tests should be conducted regularly under conditions as realistic and demanding as can be devised. The creation of a testing situation must, however, be preceded by special negotiations which seek fuller guidance from, and participation by, the DD/P in war planning and alert exercises.

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[REDACTED]

Special Assistant to the Chief
Geographic Research Area

Enclosure: 1

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